

The Department's Office of Quality Assurance is proposing to readopt with amendments the Regulations Governing the Certification of Laboratories and Environmental Measurements, N.J.A.C. 7:18. The proposed readoption with amendments continue the current regulations which expire on July 1, 2001. These rules govern the certification of and the procedures used by laboratories that conduct analytical testing for many of the Department's Programs.

Under the Environmental Laboratory Certification Program, results of testing and analysis can be accepted to establish compliance with the Department's rules only if the testing or analysis is performed by a New Jersey certified environmental laboratory. To obtain and maintain certification, a laboratory must meet the standards set forth in these rules.

The amendments proposed in the readoption update the database codes associated with the analytical parameters referenced in the rules as well as the citations to cross-reference other rules. The proposed amendments will update the database codes from three to five digits in order to be consistent with the codes currently used by the New Jersey Environmental Measurements System (NJEMS). This change is necessary in order to improve the administrative process of recording and processing applications under the current rules.

A full text of the proposed amendment will be published in the April 2, 2001 edition of the New Jersey Register. Persons interested in obtaining a copy of the amendment should contact the Office of Quality Assurance at (609)292-3950. Interested persons may submit written comments until May 2, 2001 to Karen Hershey, Esq., Attn: DEP Docket Number 04-01-03/100, Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Legal Affairs, PO Box 402, Trenton, NJ, 08625.